

### REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated April 8, 2008, prior to preparing this response. Currently, claims 51 and 52 are pending in the application, wherein claims 51 and 52 have been rejected. Claims 51 and 52 have been amended with this paper. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at lines 9-10 of page 8 of the Specification as originally filed. Favorable consideration of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 51 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Samson, U.S. Patent No. 5,702,373. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In formulating the rejection it appears as though the inner braid 244 illustrated in FIG. 7 of Samson is being equated to the claimed knit tubular member. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assessment. Samson teaches that the component denoted with reference number 244 is an inner braid of the catheter shown in FIG. 7. See Samson, at column 13, lines 45-61.

Samson is quite clear when describing a braid as indicated by the description when it is stated:

Whenever I use the term “braid” herein, I mean tubular constructions in which the ribbons making up the construction are woven in an in-and-out fashion as they cross to form a tubular member defining a single lumen. The braids may be made up of a suitable number of ribbons, typically six or more.

Samson, at column 12, lines 15-20 (emphasis added).

Thus, it is apparent that the inner braid indicated in the rejection includes a plurality of ribbons making up the construction which are interwoven in a helical arrangement. Dissimilarly, as recited in claim 51 and 52, the claimed knit tubular member is formed of a single strand forming a plurality of up loops and a plurality of down loops. Up loops of the single strand are interlocked with down loops of the single strand to form the knit tubular member from the single strand. In the braid construction taught in Samson, a ribbon of the braid is not interlocked with another portion of the same ribbon, but rather a ribbon crosses over other ribbons of the braid.

For at least these reasons, Samson fails to anticipate either of claims 51 and 52. Claims 51 and 52 are believed patentable over the teachings of Samson. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

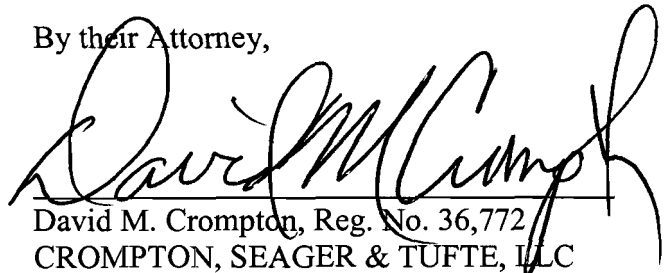
Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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